

## A NEW POISONOUS MUSHROOM

(WITH THREE FIGURES)

The genus *Clitocybe* is a large one, with approximately 400 species. Very few of this large number are known to be poisonous or deleterious in other ways when eaten. Among these may be mentioned from North



FIG. 1.—*C. acromelalga* growing on ground in bamboo forest

America the phosphorescent species *C. illudens* Schw., which produces serious nausea, and *C. sudorifica* Pk., which, eaten in small quantities, causes a "profuse perspiration sometimes continuing for 5 or 6 hours" (N.Y. State Mus. Bull. no. 157. 68. 1912), but is "sufficiently toxic to cause the death of frogs, rabbits, and guinea pigs." It is a matter of

interest, therefore, to record the discovery of another poisonous species of this genus, which is also a hitherto undescribed one. It was found growing on the ground among other vegetation in a bamboo forest in Tsurugiji, Noto, Japan. The poisonous effects from eating this mushroom are manifested by an acute burning pain in the fingers and toes within 3 days. The pain is mitigated by placing the hands and feet in running water.

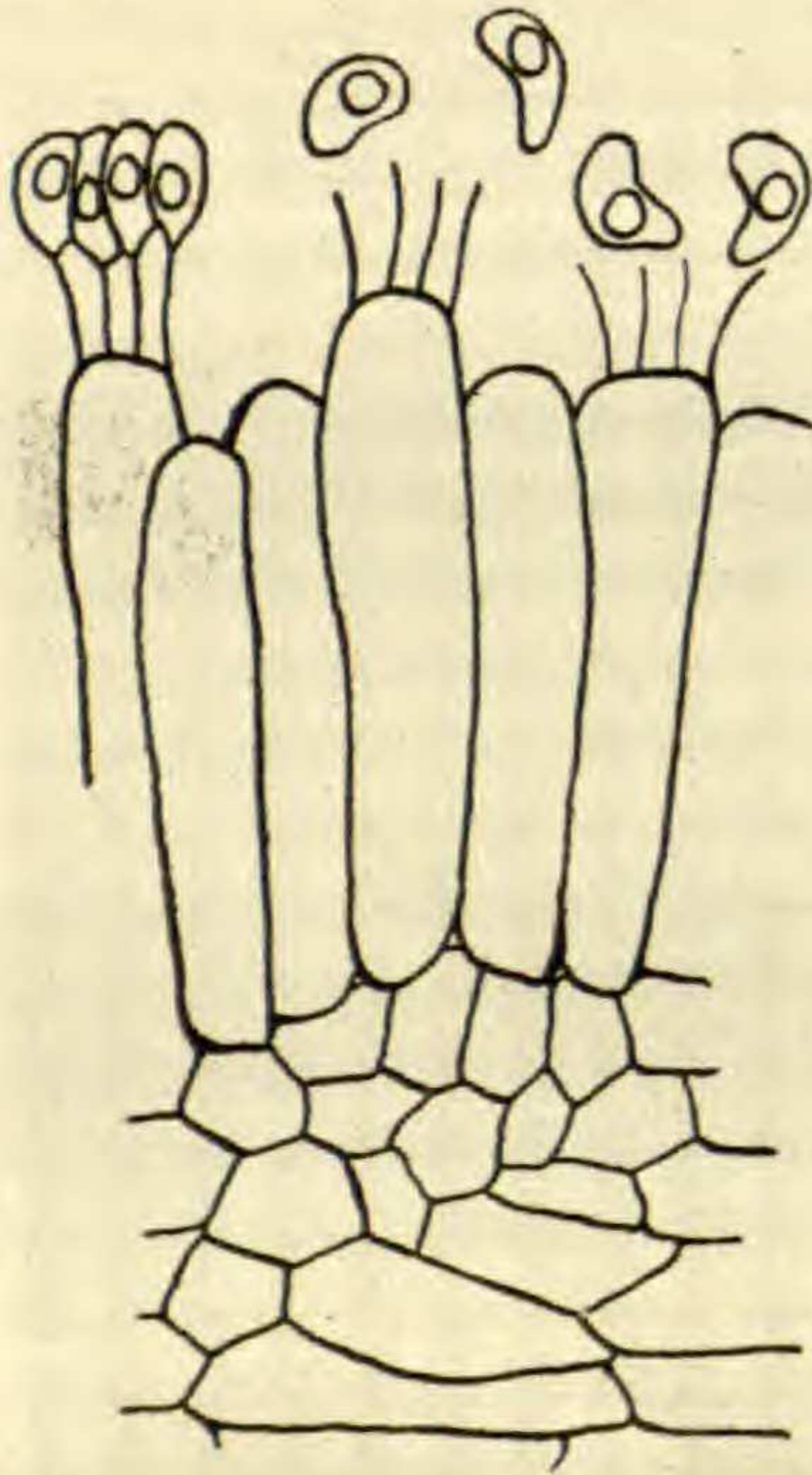


FIG. 2.—Basidiospores of *C. acromelalga*;  $\times 1500$ .

**Clitocybe acromelalga**, n. sp.—Plants 3–6 cm. high; pileus 5–10 cm. broad, orange yellow when fresh, dark brown red when dry, subfleshy and pliant, depressed, margin incurved when young, splitting in age, surface smooth, flesh white; lamellae white, crowded, thin, slightly decurrent; basidia 4-spored; spores white, smooth, oboval,  $3-4 \times 1.5-2.5 \mu$ ; stem rigid, fibrous, hollow, concolorous with the pileus, 2–5 cm. long, 0.5–1 cm. thick.—Odor and taste not marked. Poisonous

effects, *acromelalga*. October to November, on the ground in a bamboo forest, Tsurugiji, Noto, Japan.—T. ICHIMURA, *Kanazawa, Japan*.

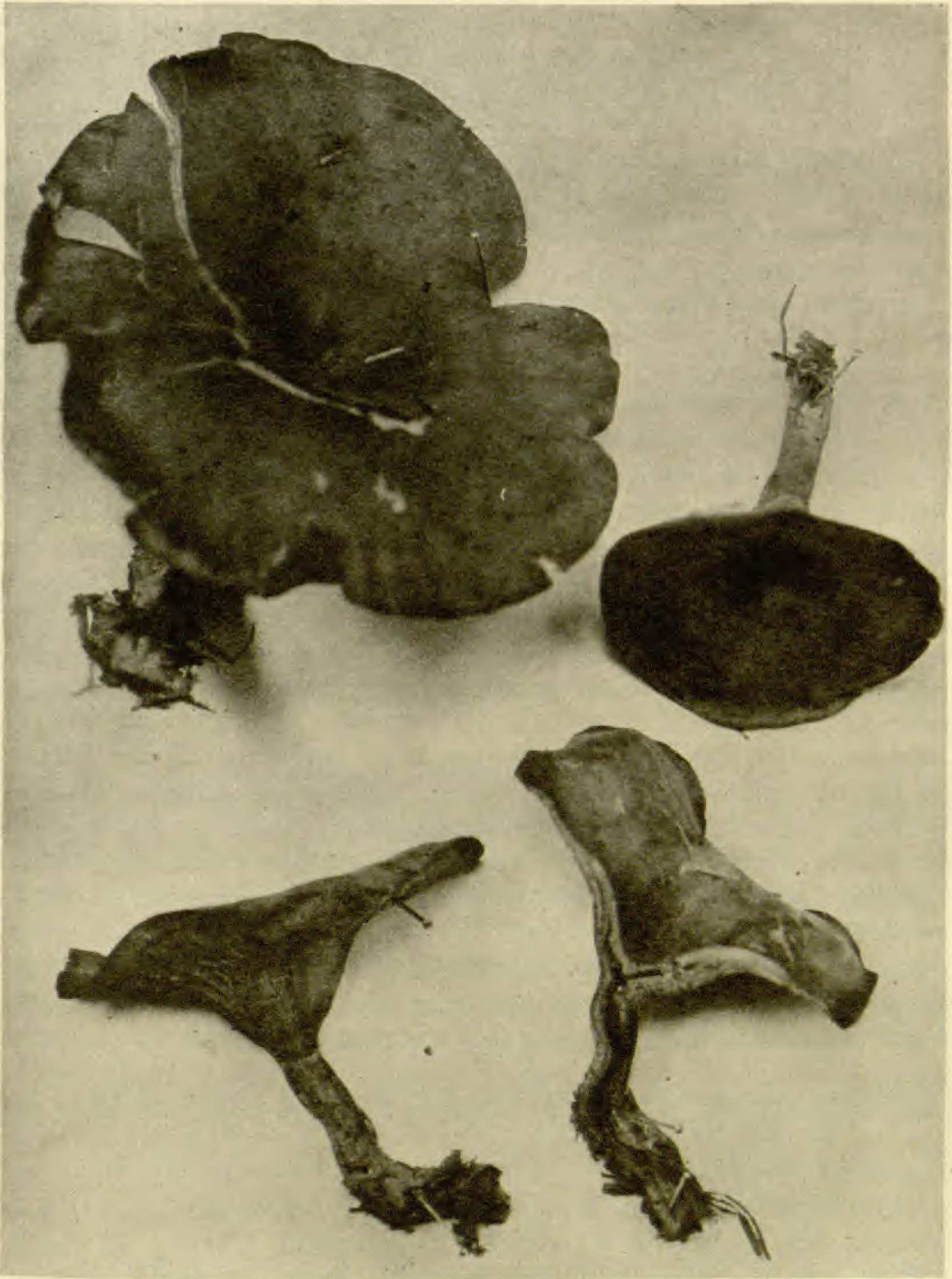


FIG. 3.—*Clytocybe acromelalga*;  $\times \frac{2}{3}$